

Message Text

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73

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 FEA-01

INT-05 OES-03 OMB-01 /102 W
----- 073974

R 140830Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 131

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK BY POUCH

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU BY POUCH

AMCONSUL MANDALAY BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI BY POUCH

USLO PEKING BY POUCH

AMCONSUL UDORN BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY SOFIA BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, BM

SUBJECT: JOINT WEEKA 30

1. CODEL MANSFIELD (LOU)

SENATOR AND MRS. MANSFIELD AND PARTY VISITED BURMA AUG 7-11 AS PART OF THE SENATOR'S GLOBAL FACT FINDING MISSION. CODEL TOURED PAGAN AND MANDALAY AS WELL AS RANGOON AND THE SENATOR AND MRS. MANSFIELD ATTENDED A SMALL INFORMAL DINNER OFFERED BY PRESIDENT NE WIN. THE PRESIDENT DISCUSSED WORLD AFFAIRS AND BURMA DEVELOP-
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MENTS AND REMINISCED ABOUT THE SENATOR'S EARLIER VISITS. ATMOS-

PHERE WAS MOST CORDIAL; PRESIDENT APPARENTLY WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE HIS INTEREST IN THE ROLE OF THE U.S. IN ASIA. VISIT RECEIVED ONLY MODEST PRESS COVERAGE IN RANGOON AND MANDALAY PAPERS BUT PROVOKED FLURRY OF SPECULATION AMONG THE DIP. CORP. (RANGOON 2283, 2285).

2. FONMIN VISITS LAOS, PRC (LOU)

FOREIGN MINISTER U HAL PHONE IS COMPLETING BRIEF VISITS TO LAOS AND THE PRC. IN HIS TWO DAY STOP AT VIENTIANE HE MET WITH THE LAO DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER CABINET OFFICIALS. LAOTIAN FOREIGN OFFICE ISSUED STATEMENT NOTING THAT HLA PHONE AND PHOUN SIPRASEUTH, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRIME MINISTER, "JOINTLY DISCUSSED THE SITUATION IN THE WORLD AND LAOS, PARTICULARLY THE ADMIRABLY CHANGED SITUATION IN INDOCHINA". IN PEKING, HLA PHONE CALLED ON VICE-PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING AND FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO KUAN-HUA AND THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS HOSTED BANQUETS. THE DINNER SPEECHES STUCK TO USUAL RHETORIC ABOUT FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES; PREDICTABLY HLA PHONE MADE NO MENTION OF PRC SUPPORT FOR THE BCP INSURGENCY IN THE NORTHEAST. NO INDICATION WAS OFFERED OF WHAT, IF ANYTHING, WAS ACCOMPLISHED. WE DOUBT, HOWEVER, THE AFP REPORT THAT BURMA'S POSSIBLE MEMBERSHIP IN ASEAN WAS DISCUSSED, SINCE THE GUB STILL REMAINS QUITE LIKEWARM TOWARD ASEAN. HAL PHONE IS VISITING HARBIN AFTER WHICH HE WILL PROCEED TO NORTH KOREA. HE WILL APPARENTLY VISIT SOUTH KOREA ON HIS RETURN FROM THE UNGA.

3. LAW AND ORDER CAMPAIGN (UNCLAS)

JUSTICE IN BURMA CONTINUES TO BE THE ONLY SWIFT AND SURE COMMODITY IN THE COUNTRY. MANY WORKERS AND STUDENTS INVOLVED IN LAST JUNE'S DISTURBANCES AND ORDINARY STREET CRIMINALS CONTINUE TO BE ARRESTED, TRIED, AND SENTENCED TO LONG TERMS; THE TOTAL OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS IS NOW IN THE HUNDREDS. STRIKING WORKERS RECEIVED THE HEAVIEST SENTENCES (10-16 YEARS), FOLLOWED BY SEDITIOUS STUDENTS (6-8 YEARS), BLACK MARKETEERS (4-7 YEARS) AND PEOPLE FOUND "LURKING BY NIGHT" (SENTENCE UNKNOWN). THE CAMPAIGN IS NOT WITHOUT ITS POSITIVE SIDE, HOWEVER. TWO ITALIAN TOURISTS WERE ASSAULTED AND ROBBED IN DOWNTOWN RANGOON LAST WEEK. THE FOUR ASSAILANTS WERE ARRESTED, TRIED AND SENTENCED TO UP TO 7 YEARS IN PRISON BY A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PEOPLE'S COURT THE SAME DAY.

4. OIL DEVELOPMENTS (UNCLAS)

EXXON RECENTLY CAPPED ITS SECOND TRY HOLE IN GULF OF MARTABAN AFTER DRILLING TO ABOUT 13,000 FEET. JAPANESE-OWNED ARAKAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION HAS MOVED A SMALL JAPANESE RIG INTO POSITION OFF ARAKAN COAST AND HAS BEGUN WORK ON ITS SECOND WELL. THUS, OVERALL

OFFSHORE OIL PICTURE CONTINUES BLEAK. SIMILAR SITUATION PREVAILS ONSHORE WHERE REALIZATION SPREADING THAT MUCH HERALDED LETPANDO FIELD MAY JUST BE ANOTHER POCKET DEPOSIT.

5. ROK GOODWILL MISSION (LOU)

AS PREDICTED, THE ROK WILL SEND A GOODWILL MISSION TO BURMA AUGUST 14-17 IN THE WAKE OF THE VISIT HERE BY THE DPRK SPECIAL ENVOY TWO WEEKS AGO (WEEK 28, ITEM 2). MISSION WILL BE HEADED BY ROK AGRICULTURE MINISTER CHONG SO-YONG, AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO PRESENT THE ROK'S VIEWS ON THE KOREAN ISSUE BEFORE THE NAC AND THE UNGA. AS WITH THE DPRK DELEGATION, THE BURMESE WILL ASSUME THEIR CUSTOMARY NEUTRALIST STANCE ON THE KOREAN QUESTION, FAVORING NEITHER THE ROK NOR THE DPRK.

6. BULGARIAN EMBASSY CLOSES (LOU)

THE ONE-MAN BULGARIAN EMBASSY, TRADITIONALLY HEADED BY A CHARGE WITH ITS AMBASSADOR RESIDENT IN DACCA, CLOSED AUGUST 1. OFFICIAL EXPLANATION IS THAT LEVEL OF TRADE WITH BURMA DID NOT JUSTIFY MAINTAINING A RESIDENT MISSION HERE. COMMENT: WHATEVER THE REASON FOR THE CLOSING, THE NEWS HAS BEEN RECEIVED WITH DELIGHT AMONG THE DIP. CORPS. IN RANGOON SINCE OBE BURLY BULGARIAN CHARGE GUERGUEV (ALLEGED TO BE A TANK COMMANDER BY TRADE) IS GENERALLY REGARDED AS ONE OF THE MOST ARRAGANT AND OBNOXIOUS DIPLOMATS IN TOWN.

7. KARAWAIK HALL OPENS (UNCLAS)

THE KARAWAIK HALL, A HUGE CONCRETE REPLICAS OF A BURMESE ROYAL BARGE, WAS FINALLY OPENED TO THE PUBLIC AUGUST 11, A YEAR AND FOUR MONTHS BEHIND SCHEDULE. THE STRUCTURE, LOCATED ON ROYAL LAKE IN RANGOON, AND ENJOYING A SUPERB VIEW OF THE SHWEDAGON PAGODA, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS 270 FEET LONG AND 130 FEET WIDE AND HAS RESTAURANTS AS WELL AS ROOMS FOR USE FOR PARTIES, RECEPTIONS, ETC; THE HALLS ARE DECORATED WITH ELABORATE WOOD CARVINGS AND LACQUER APPLIQUES OF BURMESE DESIGN. THE STRUCTURE WAS STARTED IN 1971, COST AN ESTIMATED K25 MILLION, AND IS IMPRESSIVE IN A GARISH SORT OF WAY. HOWEVER, THE GUB'S ASCERTION THAT IT IS DESIGNED TO LAST 500 YEARS MAY BE A BIT OVERSTATED; MUCH OF THE ESPECIALLY ORDERED TABLEWARE AND OTHER EQUIPMENT FOR THE KARAWAIK FOUND ITS WAY TO THE BLACKMARKET LONG BEFORE THE HALL OPENED.
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